

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An ink for ink jet printers which contains a pigment and an organic solvent wherein a silicone graft polymer is present in the ink and is dispersed in the organic solvent in the form of particles having a particle diameter of 0.01-0.3  $\mu\text{m}$  and in such a state that the silicone graft polymer is adsorbed by at least a portion of the outer surface of the pigment, ~~wherein the adsorption to at least a part of the outer surface of the pigment is effected by the following three steps:~~

~~a dispersing step A where the pigment is dispersed using the silicone graft polymer in an organic solvent in which the silicone graft polymer is soluble;~~

~~a mixing step B where an organic solvent in which the silicone graft polymer is insoluble is poured into the dispersion obtained in the dispersing step A or the dispersion obtained in the dispersing step A is poured into an organic solvent in which the silicone graft polymer is insoluble; followed by mixing to precipitate the silicone graft polymer and to adsorb the silicone graft polymer to the pigment~~

wherein the organic solvent has a small polarity and an electrical resistivity of not lower than  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ , the silicone graft polymer is adsorbed to the pigment in an amount of 5-3000

parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the pigment, and the silicone graft polymer is crosslinked with an ester linkage.

2. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1, wherein the pigment is selected from the group consisting of inorganic pigments, organic pigments and dyes insoluble in the solvent and the pigment has a particle diameter of 0.01-0.3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the pigment is an organic pigment and/or carbon black, and the silicone graft polymer is dispersed in the organic solvent in the form of particles having a particle diameter of 0.01-0.3  $\mu\text{m}$  in such a state as the silicone graft polymer being adsorbed to at least a part of the outer surface of the organic pigment and/or carbon black.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1, wherein the silicone-based organic solvent comprises a methylpolysiloxane and/or cyclic methylpolysiloxane

structure.

8. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1, wherein the silicone graft polymer has a polar group.

9. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 8, wherein the polar group is selected from at least carboxyl group, hydroxyl group and amino group.

10-12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1, wherein the silicone graft polymer has a number-average molecular weight of 2000-50000.

14. (Previously Presented) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1, wherein the silicone graft polymer is an acrylic compound.

15. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1, wherein the graft portion of the silicone graft polymer has a molecular weight of 500-10000.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1, wherein the silicone graft polymer has two or more functional groups for crosslinking which can crosslinking-react with an acidic group.

19. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 18, wherein the functional group for crosslinking is a glycidyl group or a hydroxyl group.

20. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1 which is used for an ink jet printer provided with a recording head having a plurality of ink discharging ports, an energy transforming means for transforming electric energy to ink discharging energy in correspondence to the plurality of discharging ports.

21. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1 which contains at least one additional additives selected from the group consisting of binders, organic solvents, anionic, cationic and nonionic surface active agents, preservatives, deodorants, anti-skinning agents, perfumes, pigment dispersing agents,

pigment derivatives, leveling agents, electric charge adjusting agents and wetting agents.

22. (Original) An ink for ink jet printers according to claim 1 which has a viscosity of 1-20 mP.s.